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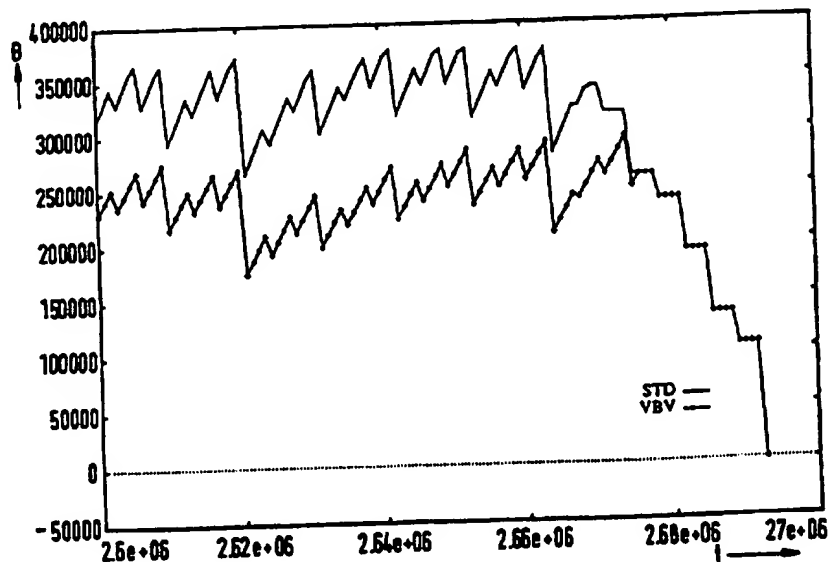
(57) Abstract

A system is provided for encoding clips of video data for multiplexing into a system level stream with associated audio and control data. By deriving a relationship between encoder and decoder buffer occupancy levels, and taking into account buffer fill rate, the multiplexer targets a starting occupancy for the video system layer buffer (the MPEG STD) at that for the decoders video buffer (the MPEG VBV). With knowledge of fill rate, the decoder buffer need only be filled to a predetermined level prior to reading out clips for decoding, rather than filling the buffer completely, and seamless joining of video clips can then be simply achieved. The technique has particular application to interactive multimedia systems where continuous display is required.